

Medical Sociology (AS Topics Course #300)

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Associate Professor of Sociology Office hrs: M & W 10:15-11:00; T & TR 11:15-Noon

Course Statement

This is a course on the practice of medical sociology. Medical sociology is the theoretical, empirical and applied study of the social dimensions of health, illness, disease and the provision and consumption of health care. Topics that will be covered include epidemiology, social demography of health, the relationship between social stress and health, health and illness behavior, the sick role, the physician-patient relationship, the organization of health care and the organization of medical practice.

The format for this class will be lecture and discussion.

Course Requirements/Grading

Mandatory class attendance and participation:	10%
Midterm Exam	30%
Daily response papers	30%
Final Exam	30%

Required Texts

AIDS and HIV in Perspective: A Guide to Understanding the Virus and its Consequences (2nd edition). 1999. Barry D. Schoub. Cambridge University Press.

Medical Sociology (9th edition). 2004. William Cockerham. Pearson: Upper Saddle River, NJ.

The Care of the Self: Volume 3 of the History of Sexuality. 1986 [1984]. Michel Foucault. New York: Vintage. Robert Hurley, trans.

Wednesday	1/14	Course overview; primer on sociology
Friday	1/16	The Logic of Social Science
Monday	1/19	Class does not meet (MLK Day)
Wednesday	1/21	Sociological Theories Discuss reading by Ritzer (handout)
Friday	1/23	Sociological Methods Discuss reading by Babbie (handout)
Monday	1/26	Assessing the Needs of PLWAs in Memphis Discuss reading by McGowan (handout)
Wednesday	1/28	Medical Sociology Discuss chapter 1 in Cockerham
Friday	1/30	Epidemiology Discuss chapter 2 in Cockerham
Monday	2/2	The History and Epidemiology of AIDS Discuss the “Introduction” in Schoub
Wednesday	2/4	Social Demography of Health Discuss chapter 3 in Cockerham
Friday	2/6	Social Stress and Health Discuss chapter 4 in Cockerham
Monday	2/9	Illness Behavior Discuss chapter 6 in Cockerham
Wednesday	2/11	The Clinical Stages of HIV/AIDS Discuss chapter 1 in Schoub
Friday	2/13	The AIDS virus Discuss chapter 2 in Schoub
Monday	2/16	The Disease Mechanisms of HIV Discuss chapter 3 in Schoub
Wednesday	2/18	The Importance of Adherence Discuss article on adherence (handout)
Friday	2/20	The Transmission of HIV Infection

		Discuss chapter 4 in Schoub
Monday	2/23	The Scope of the AIDS Pandemic Discuss chapter 9 in Schoub
Wednesday	2/25	The Sick Role Discuss chapter 7 in Cockerham
Friday	2/27	PWA guest speaker
Monday	3/1	Doctor-Patient Interaction Discuss chapter 9 in Cockerham
Wednesday	3/3	Review for Midterm Exam
Friday	3/5	Midterm Exam
Monday	3/8 - 3/12	Spring Break
Monday	3/15	Class does not meet as scheduled. Class views film at 6pm in C102.
Wednesday	3/17	Discussion of film
Friday	3/19	The Ethics of AIDS Discuss chapter 8 in Schoub
Monday	3/22	Health Behavior and Lifestyles Discuss chapter 5 in Cockerham
Wednesday	3/24	Physicians Discuss chapter 10 in Cockerham
Friday	3/26	Healing Options and the Changing Role of Physicians Discuss chapters 8 and 11 in Cockerham
Monday	3/29	Nurses, Physician Assistants, Pharmacists and Midwives Discuss chapter 12 in Cockerham
Wednesday	3/31	Hospitals Discuss chapter 13 in Cockerham
Friday	4/2	Health Care in the Developed Countries Discuss chapter 15 in Cockerham
Monday	4/5	Health Care Delivery and U.S. Social Policy

		Discuss chapter 14 in Cockerham
Wednesday	4/7	Health Care in Socialist and Developing Countries Discuss chapter 16 in Cockerham
Friday	4/9	Easter Break
Monday	4/12	Care of the Self: Part One
Wednesday	4/14	Care of the Self: Part Two
Friday	4/16	Care of the Self: Part Three
Monday	4/19	Care of the Self: Part Four
Wednesday	4/21	Care of the Self: Part Five
Friday	4/23	Care of the Self: Part Six
Monday	4/26	Care of the Self: Conclusion
Wednesday	4/28	No class (Undergraduate Research Symposium)
Friday	4/30	Review for Final Exam